of certain standard counts of yam at reasonable rates through Public Distribution System at least on a pilot basis in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the actual recommendation of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The recommendation of the Ministry of Civil Supplies was for carrying out distribution of hank yam on pilot basis in some areas of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles has suggested to the Ministry of Civil Supplies to hold a meeting at their own level in order to examine the feasibility of the proposal.

Production through powerlooms

3808. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Apex Handloom Weavers' Cooperatives are required to get their bye-laws amended to take up production through Powerlooms;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd.'s (APCO). Hyderabad, bye-laws would amended to permit it to take up production through Powerlooms as decided at a meeting of senior administrative officers held on 1st June, 1994 at Hyderabad;

(c) whether Government are aware that Primary Powerloom Weavers' Cooperative Society and an Apex Powerloom Weavers' Cooperative Society already exist in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the amounts invested by Government for Primary and Apex Powerloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRl G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) To enable Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., (APCO) to take up production through powerlooms, there is need to amend bye-laws of the society.

(b) In a meeting of Senior Administrative Officers held on 01.06.1994 at Hyderabad, it was proposed that APCO may also under take production through powerlooms and to consider amending bye-laws of APCO.

(c) There are Primary Powerloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies in the State but there is no Apex Powerloom Society in the State.

(d) The Government has not invested in Primary Powerloom Weavers Cooperative Societies.

Thrift Fund Scheme for Weavers' Cooperatives

3809. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased
to state:

(a) whether a Thrift Fund Scheme has been introduced in the Primary Weavers' Cooperatives for the benefit of Weavers' Cooperatives;

(b) what is the rate of contribution to be made by the weavers and the contribution to be given by the State and Central Governments;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments had not paid their contribution since 1st April, 1991 and the Central Government since 1st April, 1992; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the revised Thrift Fund Scheme introduced from 1991-92, the rate of contribution to be made by the weavers and the contribution to be given by the State and Central Government is as under:

(i) Weavers contribution:	8 paise per rupee of wages earned.
(ii) Contribution of Central Government:	4 paise per rupee

†Transjiicration in Arabic script

(iii) Contribution of State Government: 4 paise per rupee.

(c) and (d) Under the Thrift Fund Scheme the Central Government had released following amount during 1991-92 and 1992-93 towards Central share to various State Governments:

(Rs in Lakhs)

Year	*Amount release*
1991-92	74.78
1992-93	140.99

Majority of the State Governments to whom thrift fund assistance was released by the Central Government have in turn released the Central as well as the State share to the beneficiary agencies.

Welfare of Handloom Weavers

3810. SHRI B.K HARIPRASAD:
SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations made by the Avadhani Committee and Sivaraman Committee for the Welfare of the handloom weavers who are out side the cooperative and corporate bodies alongwith those recommendations accepted and implemented by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Abid Hussain Committee which reviewed the Textile policy of 1985 has recommended, that the schemes intended for the welfare of. the handloom weavers shall be universal, but not confined to members in cooperatives and corporate bodies, if so, the action taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES: (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The recommendations of Avadhani Committee and Sivaraman Committee on the welfare of the handloom weavers who are outside the cooperative/ corporation fold are as under:

Recommendations of Avadhani Committee

(i) Establishment of a separate body to look after the developmental needs of the handloom weavers outside the cooperative fold. This body may be called National Handloom Financing and Development Corporation. (ii) Handloom Development Corporation should be set up in all States having concentration of more than one lakh handlooms.

(iii) The work of the Handloom Development Corporations should be based on the marketing concept.

(iv) The working capital finance for - narketing activities of the handloom corporations should be made available at concessional rates of interest at part with the priority sector.

(v) Government and Public Sector Enterprices should as a matter of policy, purchase from the handloom sector their entire requirements which can be met by the sector. Such purchases should be made only from cooperative socities or handloom development corporations.

(vi) The Handloom Development Corporations should pay adequate attention to the welfare of the weavers including housing. The corporations should also inculcate saving habits in the weavers. Banks should make provisions for grant of loans for construction of simple and cheap houses, wherever possible, for the weavers. *Recommendation of the Sivaraman Committee'*

An effective rehabilitation programme will have to be drawn up for covering handlooms outside the effective cooperative fold and the master weavers fold. Such a programme should be limited to the scheme for Intensive development of handlooms during the Sth Plan periqSKThe current position regarding the above recommendations is as under:

(i) The National Handloom Development Corporation was set up by Government of India.

(ii) State handloom development corporation have been set up and arc functioning in most of the States.